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THE MCGILL DAILY

VOLUME 83 • NUMBER 45

Cold and prickly since 1911

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1993

McGill selects new principal

BY DAVE LEY

Bernard Shapiro, former Ontario deputy minister of education and professor of education and public policy at the University of Toronto will succeed David Johnston as principal of McGill University. The announcement was made at a special closed meeting of McGill's Board of Governors.

Shapiro comes amid praise from his colleagues at U of T and optimism from members of the McGill community.

"I know of no one who thinks harder about higher education than Bernard Shapiro. This appointment is terrific for McGill and for higher education," said Robert Prichard, president of the University of Toronto.

Shapiro is a native Montréaler and graduated from McGill in 1956. He obtained his doctorate in education at Harvard after leaving

Montréal in 1961. His numerous academic posts have included associate dean of the school of education at Boston University, dean of education at the University of Western Ontario and later vice-principal (academic) at Western. During the 1980s Shapiro directed the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

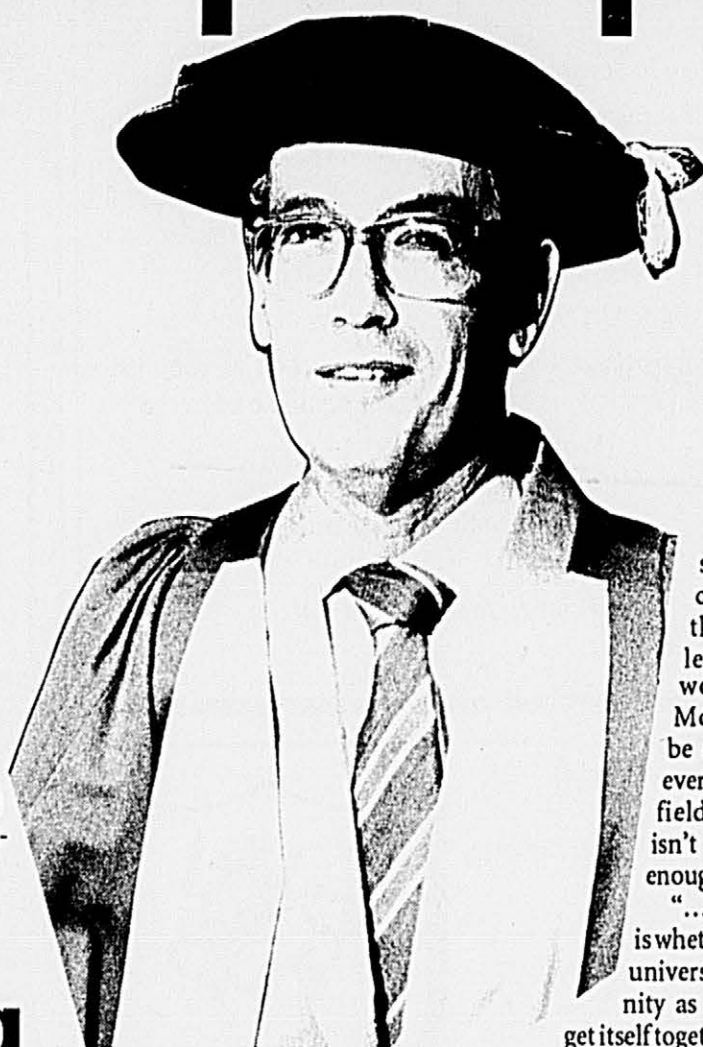
In 1986 he was appointed deputy minister of Education for the Ontario government until his last position as deputy minister of Colleges and Universities ended in 1993. Last February he was appointed professor of education and public policy at U of T.

Tamara Myers, a graduate student on the selection committee which chose Shapiro said that she was optimistic about the new principal and that she was impressed that he had "a deep understanding on how education fits into our society. He's a leader, he has a lot of

ideas and he has spent a lot of time on education issues," she added.

Alex Paterson, Chair of the McGill Board of Governors, said in a press release issued Monday that he was pleased with the decision to select Shapiro.

"Dr Shapiro is exceptionally well-qualified and has thought deeply about the major issues facing higher education today," said Paterson. "We are delighted to welcome back to Montréal a native Québecer who brings so much talent and experience to serve this community."



would be such that one could pursue the frontier level kind of work that McGill should be doing across every imaginable field, there just isn't going to be enough resources."

"...The question is whether or not the university community as a whole can get itself together to try and

make those choices, and decide where we can do the best work and do it and where we can't do the very best work and put that aside for the time being, at least. And that's a hard kind of choice to make."

McGill rejects fascist funding

BY STEPHANIE CONWAY

Cash-strapped McGill University will think twice before accepting money from an individual with a "questionable background".

This was the message sent by Vice Principle Fundraising, Michael Keifer at last Wednesday's Senate Meeting, when he denied McGill's involvement in discussions with Japanese fascist, Ryoichi Sasakawa.

Last summer, the Consul-general of Japan asked McGill administrators if they would be willing to meet with Sasakawa's representatives about a possible donation, according to Keifer.

"Before knowing what we now know about Sasakawa we said we would be happy to meet them, but that has changed," Keifer told the Senate. McGill is not involved in discussions with Sasakawa's foundation at present, he said.

Sasakawa, 94, was designated a "Class-A" war criminal for his role in the invasion of China during World War II. Since then, Sasakawa has made billions with the Japanese Motorboat Racing Association (a gambling enterprise) and has given vast amounts to charitable organizations and universities.

Sasakawa maintains important links to the Japanese Mafia and ultra-rightwing organizations. He continues to wield much political influence within Japan and some say his donations are calculated to ensure political support abroad for Japanese imperialism.

Several McGill professors indicated that they would oppose acceptance of any donation from Sasakawa in the event that McGill does enter into negotiations with his foundation.

According to Dean of Science, X Chan, "If McGill were approached, my personal view is that, unless there is strong evidence of true repentance and regret on the part of Sasakawa, I would advise that McGill not accept the money."

Professor Robin Yates, Chair of East Asian Language and Literature and Director for the Centre for East Asian Studies at McGill told *The Daily* that he would not support McGill's acceptance of this money.

"I don't think it is appropriate given what Sasakawa represents. It is not compatible with the aims and values of McGill University", said Yates.

According to Yates, "I can't imagine a scenario in which McGill would accept the money knowingly. There is a temptation in these times of budgetary restrictions, but other sources should be sought out."

Keifer did not foreclose the possibility that McGill might pursue discussions with Sasakawa's representatives in the future. But he told Senate that "any donor with a questionable background" would be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Board.

According to Professor Sam Noumoff, who raised the question in Senate, "I was pleased that Vice-Principal Keifer referred to Sasakawa's foundation as a 'questionable source' and that he intends to go before the Board of Governor's Executive Committee before proceeding, should there be a follow-up."

Noumoff has asked that he be allowed to appear before the Executive Committee to state reasons why they should reject Sasakawa's donation.

Keifer was not available for further comment.

An interview with McGill's new head

What do you think the role of a university is?

"McGill is what you would call a research university, one in which the commitment to research is very strong, as well as a commitment to the notion that teaching is best informed by researchers. In the sense that everybody is a learned researcher, the professors are just as well sophisticated learners in the group so to speak.

"...The University can't afford to see itself as a kind of separate of the society of which it is apart. And so the whole problem of how to make the borders between the university and the rest of society more permeable, so that the interaction between them is felt to be meaningful not only for students, but for people who aren't students at the university, and for people who are never going to be students."

"...The challenge is one of choice, that is in the period immediately ahead, it is unlikely that the resources available to the university

How do you see McGill's role in Québec?

"...One of the reasons I thought of coming to McGill is the fact that it is an anglophone university in a francophone environment. And that's different."

"It's a different kind of challenge. In one sense you're a kind of window on anglophone world for francophone Québec, but on the other hands you have to find specific ways which to respond to the needs of Québec whether anglophone or francophone and not entirely focus on yourself."

"...The work that McGill does is independent of the future political arrangements in Québec. The kind of things McGill should be doing they should be doing whether Québec is part of Canada or whether Québec is independent."

Continued on page 5 —
"Interview"

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The second term of office of Dean Yves-Marie Morissette of the Faculty of Law comes to an end on May 31, 1994. An Advisory Committee to Select a Dean has, therefore, been established in accordance with the Statutes.

The Dean is responsible to the Vice-Principal (Academic) for the supervision and administration of the academic programs, budgets, and all activities of the Faculty. Candidates should have appropriate scholarly and administrative experience; facility in both French and English is desirable.

McGill University is committed to equity in employment.

Nominations to, and applications for, as well as comments about, the position are invited. These should be addressed to:

Professor William C. Leggett
Vice-Principal (Academic)
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Room 504

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For your safety

The Walksafe Network (WSN) and the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Students Society (SACOM) have been authorized by those reporting incidents to release the following information in order to raise awareness for personal safety.

Last year, there were many reported incidents regarding women being followed by a man into the women's bathroom facilities in the McLennan library. Several women have reported that when they entered an individual bathroom stall, they noticed a man peering over the partition (ie. "Peeping-Tom"). As it has come to our attention that these incidents are re-occurring this year, we feel that it is important that women be aware when using the bathroom facilities in McLennan library.

On November 13th at 11:00am, on the North-East corner of Sherbrooke and Bishop streets, a woman reported that as a man walked passed her he deliberately spat at her. He is described as "darkskinned", approximately 5'7 and 140 lbs, having black feathered hair and a mustache. At the time of the incident, the man was wearing a beige wind-breaker and black pants.

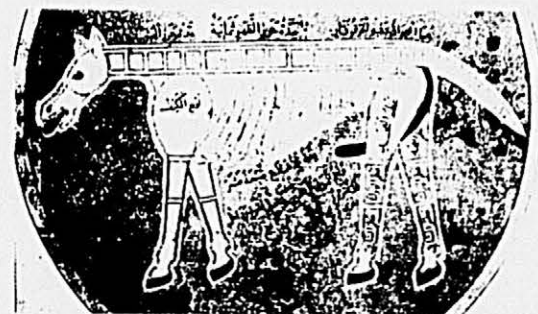
If you wish to report an assault or incident or would like to voice any concerns regarding the content of this column, please call SACOM (398-2700) and/or the WSN (398-2498).

SACOM's Crisis Line/ Walk-In hrs:

M-W-Th: 9:00am-6:00pm
T: 10:30am-6:00pm
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WSN's Foot-Patrol hrs:

Sun-Th: 6:30pm-12:30pm
Fri-Sat: 6:30pm-2:30am.

**SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOLOGY**

The Multidisciplinary Research Group on Hypertension at the IRCM (Clinical Research Institute of Montreal) seeks motivated students who are interested in participating in research projects during the summer of 1994. We provide opportunities for work in molecular or cellular biology, pharmacology and/or cellular physiology. Interested candidates should provide (before December 31st, 1993): 1) a curriculum vitae; 2) a letter describing why they are interested in a summer research project; and 3) a copy of their school transcripts. Qualified individuals will be encouraged to submit applications for summer research bursaries. For more information, please contact:

Vivianne Jodoin
Secretary of the Multidisciplinary Research Group in Hypertension IRCM
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Holocaust: open to debate?

BY WENDY LEVANT

Holocaust deniers strike most of us as such blatant and obvious bigots that it offends our intelligence and our sensibility to give them a forum for expression.

The issue of holocaust denial has of late, however, received a great deal of attention and has raised serious questions as to the implications of freedom of speech. Where does one draw the line between the freedom to communicate unpopular ideas and the censorship of damaging hate propaganda?

This was the focus of "The Shabbat Forum on Holocaust Revisionism: An Anti-Semitic Assault on Memory," part of the 62nd annual General Assembly of Jewish Federations convention last week at The Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

Participants in the forum agreed that holocaust denial is not a matter of spreading unpopular ideas. It is, rather, the frightening act of pseudo-clever people hiding behind powerful intellectual rhetoric in an effort to destroy the truth. The forum participants concluded that granting freedom of speech to holocaust deniers is simply a non-issue, because these people spread, under the banner of academic freedom, hate and injurious lies.

"There is no debate," said Abraham Foxman, a forum participant. "We cannot give them the legitimacy of being debated."

Foxman, National Director of the New York-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and Jack Silverstone, National Executive Director and General Council of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) were among the keynote speakers at the forum.

Silverstone cited David Irving in England, Bradley Smith in the US, and Canada's own Ernst Zundel as the most prominent and vocal holocaust revisionists. He described Zundel, author of such publications as 'Did Six Million Really Die?' and 'The Hitler We Loved and Why', as "the most prolific and important distributor of denial material."

Foxman cited various causes of the "kafka-esque" phenomenon of holocaust denial.

"It started with the Nazis in Austria who had a need to deny their crimes. The Neo-nazis had nationalist motivations."

Foxman attributes the motivation of current holocaust revisionists to a desire to "lessen the impact" of the holocaust.

"Today it is that part of anti-semitism [holocaust denial] that can be paraded behind legitimate criticism, analysis and the search for the truth," he said, adding that "We live in a generation with no memory. Forty per cent of the American public doesn't know what happened and 20 per cent doesn't believe it."

Foxman is alarmed by the recent bizzarre debate on US college campuses sparked by Bradley Smith, who operates under the aegis of the Committee on Open Debate on the Holocaust (CODOH).

In 1991, Smith contacted at least

50 college newspapers to place an advertisement endorsing a "revisionist opinion" which argued that the Holocaust never took place. His ad was published in 19 of these publications, including those from Duke, Ohio State, Northwestern, Cornell and the University of Michigan.

Smith hides behind the smokescreen of free speech and academic freedom. Editors defended their decision to publish Smith's ad by invoking the First Amendment right to the freedom of speech.

Cornell president Frank Rhodes was quoted in Deborah Lipstadt's book 'Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and

Memory' as saying that "free and open debate on a wide range of ideas, however outrageous and offensive some of them may be, lies at the heart of every university community."

The First Amendment is often used as a shield by holocaust deniers to protect them from government interference.

"It is not a sword by which every person who makes an outlandish statement...can invoke a constitutional right to be published," argues Emory University professor Deborah Lipstadt.

The CODOH concedes that the debate lies between "the revisionist historians" and "the establishment

historians".

To fight this "grievous assault on the Jews," Foxman sees college journalists as constituting a major influence in the shaping of public opinion.

The ADL sponsors trips to the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem to inform the younger generation of the egregious effects of anti-semitism. Silverstone calls for massive education of both Jewish and non-Jewish peoples. Efforts must be made in all areas, he says, from increased documentation to new, more comprehensive input in textbooks and public forums — all in an effort to learn from history's "essence of cruelty".

Within this debate, Jews have been criticized for being too vociferous in an effort to arouse sympathy. Their approach has also been labelled as a reactionary brand of nationalism.

In response to suggestions of the ADL's tendency to take anti-semitism and victimization to extreme lengths, Foxman eloquently retorted, "The only weapon we have to fight anti-semitism is our credibility. If we over-react, we destroy credibility. We are human and we make mistakes. I would rather be faulted for being outspoken than for being silent."

"We do not have that luxury," he added. "The last time we were silent, we lost six million Jews."

Public hearings draw successfully to a close

"It is already easier to be 'out' today than it was a week ago." - Fo Niémi, chair of the hearings

BY LIZ UNNA

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) public hearings on discrimination and violence towards gays and lesbians in Québec came to a close on Monday. The Montréal gay community, for the most part, is optimistic about the hearings and hopes they will pave the way for increased legal and social recognition of queers.

At a press conference held yesterday by the Round Table of Lesbians and Gays in greater Montréal, the group's co-ordinator Jean-Michel Lagacé called the hearings a "great success."

According to Lagacé, the major accomplishment of the hearings "was that they made us aware of the social force that we constitute. We are not "marginals", as society would have it, but rather an intrinsic component of society, bringing it richness and diversity."

Irène Demchuk of the Lesbian Caucus said the hearings served their purpose in that they "permitted us to break the silence. From now on, no one will be able to use the pretext that there is a lack of information [on gays and lesbians]. There are millions of pages of written material."

In March, the HRC will be putting out a report on the hearings, pinpointing target areas and recommendations. Demchuk urges organizations to not wait until March to change their policies.

"Many services [i.e. medical] can cease their heterosexist practices. It only takes an initiative, that's all," said Demchuk. "As of tomorrow, many institutions can do something to change."

Carl Bernier, a second-year student at the Cégep de Maisonneuve, also spoke positively about the hearings. He pointed out that 25 per cent of young people that commit suicide do so because of sexual orientation. The education system neglects to include gay issues in its curriculum, he said.

"Young people need gay role models," he said. "Why don't teach-



Jean-Michel Lagacé, Carl Bernier and Irène Demchuk



Daily photo by Tara Charran

ers mention that an author is gay? They mention how many children they have had...Why not whether they're gay?"

Despite the overall success of the hearings, Lagacé and Demchuk pointed out some drawbacks.

"We regret the absence of professional corporations, such as the Bar and the corporation of doctors,

as well as public institutions who, despite their mandate to represent society, didn't devote any time or energy [to the hearings]," said Lagacé.

Also, the legal recognition of the rights of gays and lesbians is still up in the air. "We live a double-standard. We have no judiciary recognition," said Demchuk in reference to

Article 137, that allows the government to contravene certain clauses, such as Article 10, which prohibits discrimination.

"The Charter of Rights doesn't guarantee an absolute right to equality...It is still permitted to exclude people based on sexual orientation."

EVENTS

McGill Ass. of International Students (MAIS) will be holding a general meeting, today, Wednesday Nov. 24 at 20h at the St. Barthelemy Church, 7137 Des Erables (Métro Yberville). Please give a donation. 18h in Shatner rm 435.

Free coats are available for any international student at the winter coat depot in the Birks Building, 3520 University, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 14h-17h.

SSMU and Brave New Waves (CBC Stereo) present "Secular Confessions: the Compulsive World of a Diarist", a panel discussion moderated by Brent Bambury for a live broadcast. Thursday, November 25, 12h-13h, Shatner rm 310.

The International Socialists will meet tonight, Wednesday at 19h30 at Concordia's Hall Building rm H771. We will be discussing "The Politics of AIDS".

The McGill Player's Theatre presents Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer" November 26 and 27. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$10 for the general public, and can be purchased at the door. For info and ticket reservation call 398-6813.

Anima Musica presents music by Bach, Mendelssohn and other German composers, Friday, November 26 at

The McGill University Chorus presents works by Vaughn-Williams, Willan and Sainte-Saëns tonight at 20h in Redpath Hall. Admission is free.

Friends of Bosnia of McGill invite you to "Sarajevo Ground Zero", a film showing how the Bosnian capital struggles to resist a bloody siege. Thursday, Nov. 25 at 19h in the Fieldhouse Auditorium, Leacock 132. The \$2.50 admission charge goes to the Bosnian Relief Fund.

The McGill Taiwanese Students Ass. presents two great Chinese movies, "Strawman" and "Dragon Inn", Friday, Nov. 26 at 18h30 in the Fieldhouse Auditorium, Leacock 132. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for the public. For more information please call 398-6825 and leave a message.

The Concordia Latin America Committee is screening "Contracorriente - Against the Current", tonight at 19h30 at 1455 de Maisonneuve O., rm. 651. Call 848-7410 for info.

Correction: Lecture in Linguistics Department. Lecture is on the 29th of November, not the 22nd.

LETTERS

Poppy pride

To the Daily:

Pat Harewood's article "Uncovering False Memories" is one of the most irresponsible and untimely pieces of journalism I have run across in a long time, and considering the state of the free press at McGill, that's saying quite a lot.

First of all, the title of the article is extremely objectionable; implying that remembering Canada's war dead is somehow "false" is utterly despicable, no matter what the writer's motives are.

The article seems to say "Do not be complacent in your grief for dead Canadian soldiers, because there are wars going on right now", and this in itself would be fine if there were any danger that McGill students seemed excessively aggrieved. On Nov. 11 I was on campus and I must have seen no more than two dozen poppies shared among hundreds of students.

You're right, Mr/Ms Harewood, "Tears are not enough", but let's see the tears first before we decide. Wearing a poppy is a simple enough gesture (and yes, I know they tend to fall out), but it is a sign of respect that costs us very little.

What is more, in Harewood's arrogance, he/she assumes that we are unaware of anything that is going on in the world, and indifferent to the fact of present suffering.

Perhaps this was true for Mr/Ms Harewood before he/she arrived in the nineties, but I can assure him/her that this is not so true for everyone. We do not need to be lectured on what we already know on a day set aside to appreciate what we too often take for granted.

There is nothing in the wearing of a poppy that proclaims "I mourn only for a few white males", it is a simple, wordless decency in this country, one which expresses much more than Mr/Ms Harewood seems ready to understand, and which allows us to face our common past (wherever we come from) with a sense of gratitude and humility.

Brad Buchanan
U3 Arts

Callous comment

To the Daily:

I do my best to keep an open mind reading the McGill Daily Culture, but Pat Harewood's "Uncovering False Memories" simply went too far.

Remembrance Day is a day of mourning for those who lost their lives defending the security of Canada and the freedoms that we enjoy.

To question the validity of this ceremony is to belittle the sacrifice and the suffering of those who gave their lives for us, Canada. By mourning the loss of those who gave their lives we are not ignoring the suffering of other people at home or abroad. Ignorance is a problem, but it has nothing to do with Remembrance Day.

Glorification of war has nothing to do with Remembrance Day either. Anyone who took the time to speak to a

veteran would quickly learn that. The horror to them was real.

To our generation Remembrance Day may only mean a poppy and a high school assembly. That is tragic. To men and women who served in World War 1 and 2 and the Korean war, who stood in Dominion Square this morning to mourn the loss of friends and countrymen who were very real to them, it means a great deal more. Editorial comment and question of convention is healthy. Callous insensitivity and disrespect is not.

Patrick Aldous

P.S. scandal

To the Daily:

Re: The Ed. note that did not come anywhere close to addressing the most important point in my Nov. 15 letter:

I recall reading lots of pro-Serb things in the *Daily* right around the time of the Serb hunger strike near the

issue. A large problem with combating this in the past has been student body apathy. The Wednesday articles and the Thursday-attention-getter will no doubt stimulate individuals to contact their SSMU reps (at 6798/Andrew, 6801/Mark, and 6797/Ruth) concerning this issue.

Blading from Shatner to "boldly go where no Exec has gone before,"

You think education is expensive. Try ignorance. — Derek Bok

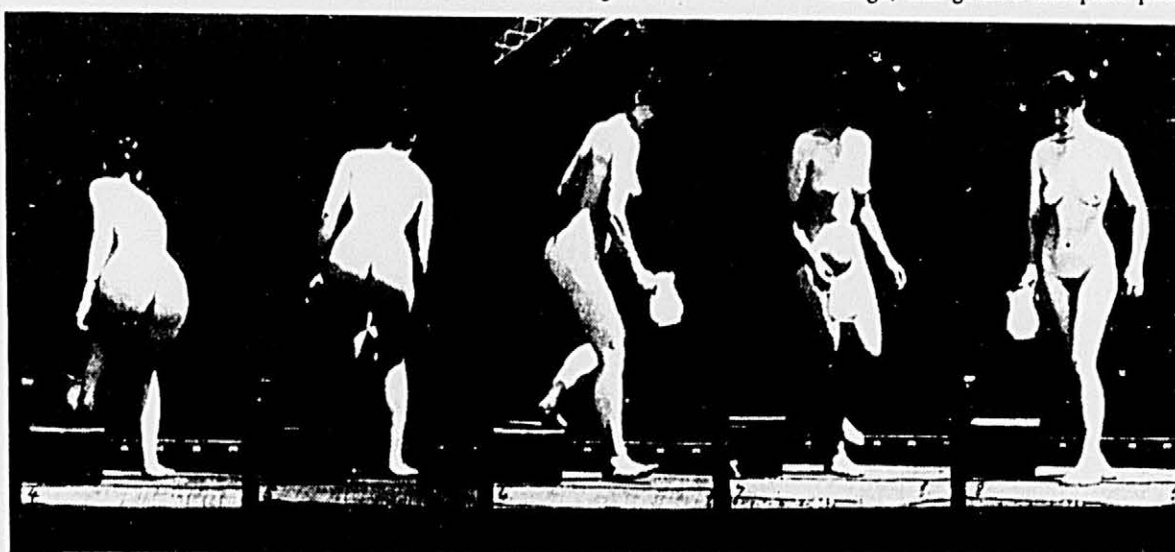
G. Andrew Work
vp external, SSMU

Shedding some light

To The Daily:

Please allow me to correct or shed some light on several points mentioned in your November 17 first-page article, "Student coalition: Buy now, pay later".

First, I am quoted as saying that the *Organisation nationale universitaire* is "undemocratic". This was undoubtedly a misunderstanding.



Roddick gates (Fall of last year?). Now, how about addressing the real issue? (And how about printing my P.S.s properly please?) I really don't want to have to continue complaining about how my letters get mutilated between my page and the *Daily*'s.

So far, you've omitted one P.S., and put the second in the wrong place (yes, I'd put it in the wrong place originally, because you omitted the first one, and I figured you were intelligent enough (I temporarily forgot who I was dealing with) to put it in the right place once you realized that I wanted it included). Congratulations, though, on italicizing *Daily* all by yourselves.

Jeremy Michelson
U3 Science

I'll take ignorance

To the Daily:

Regarding the front page of last Thursday's Culture issue, I note that in the masthead you refer to the V.P.'s as 'bootlickers'.

I would like to refute this statement. While it is true that I may frequently kiss my rollerblades (love of my life, I live for dry streets!), I do not lick boots. My standards are much higher than would allow me to lick a lowly boot. And my rollerblades would be intensely jealous.

On a more serious note, thank you for drawing attention to the fee-hike

Yes, I do disagree with the ONU's procedures of consensus-building" which I believe are unsuited for the particular task at hand; consensus-building can too often result in unclear positions and unspecified mandates. However, it is not in itself "undemocratic".

Second, you correctly mention that the PGSS does not yet have an income-contingency policy in its books. We will seek to remedy the situation in the near future, initially through a full debate among PGSS Councilors and, soon thereafter, through a formal motion at Council.

As it stands, the PGSS Executive is very sensitive to the critical arguments on income contingency compounded by the Canadian Federation of Students, which PGSS formally joined this year.

Finally, you state that the RACSQ (the autonomous graduate student federation to which PGSS belongs) is a member of ONU. This should indeed be qualified. While the RACSQ did contribute a nominal sum to the ONU cause last summer it has yet to accept formal inclusion.

The RACSQ, however, will have clarified its position by November 20, at the monthly meeting of its *Conseil d'administration*.

Eric Laferrière
vp External Affairs, PGSS

To the Daily:

I shudder to think of the mindset of the McGill community when a virtually unknown student publication generates more morally outraged letters to the editor than a shocking sabotage of one of our basic rights. I am referring to the ill-conceived and boorish demonstration against False Memory Syndrome.

This modern day witch hunt is as appalling as its senselessness: was Dr. lief promoting hatred towards incest survivors? No. Then why should he not be allowed to speak?

Do the words "academic freedom" mean anything to the protesters? What are they afraid of? To me and the majority of people I talked to, the FMS theory is quite plausible when compared with other phenomena of the mind.

Nobody is saying that incest doesn't happen, or that trauma-induced amnesia is non-existent. Isn't it possible, though, that given a therapist's posi-

to do is *save people's lives* and to pass a resolution that obstructs this goal because of your cowardice to let common sense win out over political correctness is unforgettable.

The unpleasant fact is that men having sex with men puts them at a high risk of transmitting the HIV virus. This is not a homophobic opinion or a criticism of a chosen lifestyle, it's a fact of life.

What LBGSM's Mary-Margaret Jones and most of you spineless dolts at SSMU fail to realize is that people's lives are at stake here, which seems to me to be a tad more important than people's hurt feelings.

I have also suffered the embarrassment of being turned away from giving blood because of my consumption of some magic mushrooms the previous weekend. Since the image of an infant hemophiliac tripping out ain't a pretty one, I can live with this discrimination (and, granted, only temporary at that) because the Red Cross have a moral responsibility to the people they are trying to help.

I don't feel the urge to create a McGill Hallucinogenic Devourers Society and then demand the banishment of a charitable organization from campus.

Those who were turned away were, initially, trying to give the gift of life, so why they would make a radical about-face and attempt to take it away by depriving blood recipients of the rest of the school's blood remains a mystery.

If their initial motives were only to get a feeling of self-righteousness, why don't they go fill out an organ donor's card or something? Hopefully enough McGill students will hoof it down to Concordia (who have yet to sink to this shameful level) to donate their blood.

So wake up and get your asses! There are more important matters at hand than people's precious feelings.

Andrew Fleming
U3 English

Shame shame shame...

To the Daily:

Have you no shame? On Wednesday, Nov. 17, you refused to print three letters because they were over the 300 word limit; on the very next day, you printed only one letter. It was 340 words long, but last time I checked, 340 was greater than 300.

Of course, the 340 word letter was written by the Arab Students' Association, and I believe I can state, without receiving another contradicting (and false) Ed. note, that the *Daily* is pro-Palestinian. But, as I thought I had written in a previous letter, this is irrelevant (despite the Ed. notes to my letter being both contradicting and irrelevant; however, that is the topic of another letter).

The *Daily* pretends to be concerned about fairness. The *Daily* claims not to believe in either discrimination or favouritism. It has become much too obvious that the *Daily* is incapable of practicing what it preaches.

Jeremy Michelson
U3 Science

Ed. note: the policy of 300 words still stands. The fact that we are innumerate is a different story...

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THE MCGILL DAILY

Informal work expands at women's expense

Exploitation endemic in home sewing industry

BY KRISTEN BOON

Informal garment production is on the rise in Québec, and women are bearing the brunt of an exploitative and unregulated system. "Homeworkers" who are hired to sew garments in their houses, work for an average of \$3 per hour with no job security or benefits - and their numbers are increasing.

"We think in Québec there may be as many as 20 000 to 25 000 homeworkers, even though there are only 1 200 registered," said Natalie Tourchet, director of the Montréal branch of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

Most of these homeworkers are women from immigrant communities, forced into informal employment because they cannot legally work in Canada.

"In large part the [homeworking] industry in Montréal is almost exclusively immigrants," said Ruth Rose, an Economics Professor at the Université de Québec at Montréal, and co-author of the only in-depth study undertaken on homeworking in Québec.

Homeworking has become a tool of survival in the ailing clothing industry, and unions estimate that up to 30 per cent of production is now done underground.

Daniel Debuc, Director of the Joint Commission on the Ladies' Garment Industry, a body which regulates and implements labour decrees, sees homeworking today as more of an institution than a phenomena.

"With less and less quotas protecting countries, there has been increasing pressure on employers to cut production costs, so they rely on unskilled employees in their homes, and pay them less and less," said Debuc. "It is a big and uncontrolled problem."

Economic hardships are making creative - and usually illegal - solutions ubiquitous.

"We don't have specific data but the way we hear it and see it is that with the recession, the taxes on garments at 15.6 per cent, and the fiscal situation, the problem has increased," said Debuc.

With no control over their work load or conditions, Homeworkers are systematically exploited in this industry. Irregular pay and loss of wages are a continual threat, and fly-by-night schemes are rampant.

"The problem is they have no control over how much they work, it varies greatly. They can work from 10h00 to midnight, seven days per week in the busy season. But they don't know if they'll get work tomorrow, or if they'll get paid," said Du.

As homeworkers are hired to cut costs and evade taxes, they get no protection from formal work legislation.

"As far as we are concerned they are unemployed," said a spokesperson for the ILGWU.



Interviews conducted with homeworkers in Toronto and Montréal reveal the horrendous working conditions they are forced to accept. Paid on a piece rate system, the average homeworker's wage has declined from \$4 to \$3 per hour. As they usually work in their homes, they cannot easily press collectively for better conditions.

Rising imports from low wage

countries are making survival a challenge in the garment industry. Although clothing and textile production have historically been an important part of the Québec manufacturing base, the 1981 Multi Fibre Agreement, and the recent free trade deals have destabilized the market.

"With the increasing production of garments imported from low wage countries a whole ideology

against regulation and constraints on employers has developed," said Rose.

Although union membership and official statistics suggest garment production is declining, other indicators show off-the-books production is actually higher. Statistics Canada estimates a loss of 8 000 sewing jobs in the past three years, but small scale manufacturers are proliferating and are paying less for contract bids in the process. Cheaper labour sources have become the means to cut costs.

"What unions see is companies closing down and shrinking, and contracting their work out somewhere else," said Holly Du, Co-ordinator of the Homeworker's Association in Toronto.

"In order to survive in a 'quick response' market, companies need a flexible workforce. Factories often keep a small core group and then contract out extra work to Homeworkers," Du explained.

The garment industry is organized in pyramid fashion, and the farther down the structure you slide, the more questionable the operations become. Retailers buy garments from manufacturers who in turn conceive and design the apparel. The actual production of garments is taken up by factories who

bid for deals, but often the sewing is devolved once again - either to subcontractors or to homeworkers.

In this bottom stage of production the real problems occur. Homeworkers in Montréal are almost exclusively women, recruited through ads in community newspapers, or networks within ethnic communities.

Although homeworking is technically legal in Québec if certain standards are met, recent investigations have shown that most women are working at standards and wages are highly irregular.

The Joint Commission has found that homeworkers are often restricted by language problems, low skills and non-citizen status from finding work in the formal economy.

Because of the illegal labour source, improving and enforcing regulations is extremely difficult. "They [homeworkers] are afraid of people with ties, they are afraid they may be immigration officials," said Debuc.

Du said it is very difficult to get homeworkers to complain. "Not until they have nothing else to lose will they fight," she said.

Some contractors fear that a homeworking strategy will have dire effects on the industry as a whole. Linda Gravel of the Association of Sewing Contractors of Québec said they are encouraging businesses to find other means of maintaining competitiveness.

"We think in ten years we are not going to have the same production, and our members will have to develop alternate plans instead of giving work to homeworkers," said Gravel.

An Interview with Shapiro

Continued from page one

Last summer the McGill administration considered raising tuition by \$800, which was theoretically against provincial law. Would you support such a move and would you support the government in raising tuition?

"You could hardly say that I'd be for something illegal. What's against the law is against the law and I'm not for it. I'm not interested in confronting governments in this kind of context."

"...It seems to me that what we need in order to have a sane discussion about tuition is a much, much saner system of student assistance. So that you don't mix the issues up. The two issues are: What is a student's appropriate share and how do we ensure that everyone gets to university that needs to get there. I've always been very much in favour of the various income contingent plans for defraying the costs to

a student attending university."

"...My sense of it is that tuition is going to gradually rise in the immediate future. Probably not by leaps and bounds, but as taxpayers' money becomes increasingly unable to provide the resources to do the things that you want to do with students."

"...But I myself think that the access issue isn't as related to tuition as people think. Because in countries which have zero tuition, they have the same problems we have in attracting a reasonably representative group from society."

If you were thinking economically you would think 'what is the private benefit and what is the public benefit?' and how you divide that up.

"The other way of thinking about it is whatever the cost, how does it get paid for? That is, assuming that you believe that the capacity of a person to come to a university should not be dependent more than

as absolutely necessary on which family they were born into or which kind of circumstances they are in."

How are you going to deal with McGill's financial problems?

"Well, I wish I knew... The university has a large accumulated deficit and it can't be sustained. Over the next while we are going to have to ensure that the deficit is lower

each year than it was the year before.

"I know, neither the government nor the board will allow the current situation to persist. Now we have made a small dent in the deficit this current year. To me it's not really important how large that dent is as long as the numbers keep moving in the right direction, otherwise the university will mortgage its own future."

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FACT: Everyone deals with trauma differently. There is no single method for dealing with sexual assault.

Hydro-Québec: those pesky, not so little beavers

BY BRIAN SARWER-FONER AND
NIC SEARLE

If Black Jacques Shellacque, the self-titled "pesky little beaver", could somehow dance off the celluloid and materialize from the loony world of cartoons to take living form in the orderly and sane realms of our reality, he would almost certainly work for Hydro Québec.

Hydro has a monopoly on supplying electrical power to the province. Their damming megaprojects such as James Bay and SM-3 are responsible for some of the most extensive environmental devastation in the country.

Claude Otter, member of The Grand Council of the Crees and liaison officer for the Office of the Great Whale, says, "We can prove beyond a doubt the negative impact on the Cree [of the James Bay dams]. We can go through the whole process: it's bad for the environment and Native people."

Environmental consequences of dams include drowning forests, destroying animal habitats, and releasing mercury into the water that poisons both fish and the people who eat them.

Hydro-Québec has built 485 dams to date; in so doing it has managed to build up a \$33-billion debt, greater than the national debt of Peru! The company is owned by the province and thus its loans and losses are subsidized by the tax payer.

Hydro's objective, as explained by Helen Mayer, a Hydro-Québec press officer, "is to supply energy at the lowest cost that is compatible with sound financial management."

Hydro's mandate does not factor environmental considerations, such as clean water, intact forests, and thriving animal populations, into their equations.

Hydro's dealings with Native people are hopelessly flawed, some say, because the company only thinks in terms of the dollar value of the land which it appropriates. In cases where compensation has been given to the Cree for surrendering their land, there was no money exchanged as compensation for the spiritual importance of the land in the Cree way of life.

James Bay

Approximately 9000 Cree and 1500 Inuit live in the area of James Bay. In 1975, they ceded their claim to the land by signing the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA).

Luis Eguren, Coordinator for the Grand Council of The Crees for the Resistance to Hydro-Québec's Great Whale project, explains:

"The people of Québec had health services, schooling and in-



Hydroquébecus Beaverus busy at work in preparation for the long winter ahead

frastructures; had everything given to them for free, basically. The Crees didn't have that and when they signed the agreement, that's what they got. They got the status quo. They got what every other Québécois was getting for free, except they had to give up their land for it."

The JBNQA agreement also spelled out Hydro's development plans for James Bay. The Inuit and Cree gained \$505 million in compensation from the federal and provincial governments and Hydro-Québec: they consented to Hydro's plans for the La Grande development (James Bay I) and agreed to provisions for future plans, including the Great Whale project (James Bay II).

James Bay I has taught the Cree a lot: they had to live with the negative impacts of La Grande. They are now firmly opposed to any new development on their homeland.

The Cree slowed down Hydro's proposed activities, by taking them to court in March, 1992. Fearing defeat, Hydro settled out of court and agreed to produce an intensive environmental impact assessment. But the battle has yet to be won.

As it now stands, the 5,000 page impact assessment that Hydro was forced to produce is being analyzed by a committee of different panels (federal, provincial, Cree and Inuit) in an environmental review process.

The parties involved wanted to harmonize the process, so they created the Great Whale Public Review Support Office to coordinate the concerned parties reviewing Hydro's impact study. Pierre Després, administrative coordinator of the office explained the rationale behind the review process.

"It is true that the impact statement has been put together by Hy-

dro-Québec: that is the nature of the beast... The commissions are totally free to seek advice outside, and they are doing it," said Després. "So I think there is a fair level of confidence that the process is independent. In any case: the conformity analysis phase (where we are now) is to see if there are answers being provided for the questions."

The next phase of the review process, which will probably begin early next year and last for four months, is the public review process. The public will have a chance to go over the decisions of the committee and verify if in fact Hydro followed the guidelines set up for it to perform the assessment. Després stresses that public involvement is crucial.

The last phase will be the public hearings on the project itself. Després said.

"The public will have an opportunity to refute the project. So it is true that on one hand the statement comes from Hydro-Québec, but the scrutiny from the public will be very high," said Després.

Even if the project is rejected by the review process, the Québec government and hence Hydro, are not bound by its decisions: the committee can only make recommendations. The government is still free to follow the advice or not.

As Claude Otter puts it, "in the final analysis that choice is a political decision. In the end we don't know what the government is going to say. The government is the judge and jury, and in this case, the executioner."

Environmentalists and Native groups are worried that Hydro will simply forge ahead and construct Great Whale, even in spite of public concern and counselling to not do so. They have ignored recommen-

dations in the past, most recently with the Sainte-Maurguerite-3 development (SM-3).

SM-3

Like James Bay, SM-3 would impact on land belonging to Native People; in this case it is Nitassinan, the land of the Innu.

SM-3 is already planned and has gone through the public review process. The Québec government's environmental assessment board (BAPE) produced an inquiry and public hearing report on the SM-3 project and they concluded that the project should not go ahead as planned.

Hydro's intentions are to dam the Sainte-Maurguerite River and divert two tributaries of the Moisie River (the Carheil and aux Pékans Rivers). The Ste. Maurguerite and Moisie (one of the prime locations for Québec's giant Atlantic salmon) both flow into the north shore of the St. Laurent, near Sept-Îles.

The impacts of this projected \$3-billion human project would be enormous, yet at the end of its 7 year building period, SM-3 will only create 20 permanent jobs.

Mayer, of Hydro, explains, "In order to carry out our mandate in the case of SM-3, we need to divert two rivers and the problem there, is that the diversion would affect the Moisie River, which is a salmon rich river."

Diverting the flow of the Carheil and aux Pékans will greatly reduce the flow of water through the Moisie. It is not hard to predict that this will have a detrimental effect on the salmon population.

Again Mayer brings up the mandate, "BAPE wanted us to do no diversion work, which we've always said is essential if we want to produce the electricity from SM-3 at a

cost compatible with our mandate, which is to supply energy at the lowest cost that is compatible with sound financial management."

"Of course Hydro can't do what ever it wants," Mayer said.

The situation is the same as in James Bay. Public review processes allow for there to be a clearly expressed view counter to Hydro's, but in the end these processes wield no authority.

Innu are prepared to protect their land

The Innu are adamantly against this proposed intrusion onto their land and are prepared to fight for their rights. They formed a group, the Coalition for Nitassinan to counter Hydro.

On October 6, the Québec government's Council of Ministers was to have announced the final approval for the go ahead of the project. A protest was organized in Montréal to blockade Hydro-Québec headquarters on René Levesque.

As it turned out, the announcement was not made: the Québec government wanted to get federal Ministerial advice from Ottawa. With the federal election things were slowed even further.

Sheila Copps, the new federal Minister of the Environment and other Ministers have yet to send their advice to the Québec government who will give the final stamp of approval.

The Innu fear that the decision will be to go ahead with SM-3. Sylvestre Rock of the Coalition for Nitassinan in Sept-Îles, affirms that, "we are ready. We are prepared to defend our land." They will blockade the access roads to the dam sites if necessary.

Carole Boucher, of the Regroupement de solidarité avec les Autochtones coordination committee, explains that in Montréal, people are also ready. We are "prepared to organize a blockade of the Hydro-Québec headquarters when the decision is made." Stay tuned.

The responsibility is ultimately our own.

Hydro-Québec is publicly owned (by the Québec government, thus the voters and taxpayers) and has to respond to public concern, if it is great enough.

Mayer believes, "there has to be a point at which society says, well you (Hydro) don't seem to be able to go ahead with any of your projects because there is someone who doesn't like something about every one of them. If that turns out to be the case, then everyone would have to sit around the table again and decide if perhaps the mandate shouldn't be changed.... Maybe we

Continued on page 8 —
"Hydro"

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Changing attitudes towards AIDS

AIDS is everyone's business, say experts

BY JANYA FREER

In spite of the decade-long AIDS awareness campaign, people still need to recognize that everyone is at risk, and take more responsibility in fighting the epidemic.

"Although we are not all infected with AIDS, we are all affected by this disease. World AIDS Day is a chance for everyone to talk about and reassess their own responsibility concerning this social issue," said Dr. Norbert Gilmore, Associate Director of the McGill AIDS Centre.

Gilmore will be a panelist at a discussion on AIDS, one of the events planned for World AIDS Day next Wednesday, December 1.

"The day is organized annually by the World Health Organization for governments and communities around the world to focus their efforts and to coordinate their programs in raising awareness and prevention," Gilmore added.

Reaching the university community is of particular concern, because HIV is commonly perceived as an outsider's disease.

"Our goal is to make students think about HIV and AIDS in terms of themselves, and to translate this into a change in behaviour. Right now people are aware of HIV and AIDS but feel it cannot affect them," said Dr. Michel Chateauvert, a physician at McGill Health Services and the Immunodeficiency Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Montréal Chest Hospital.

Chateauvert said that, given the lag between contraction of the vi-

rus and development of AIDS, a person of university age with AIDS will have had to be infected at a very young age.

HIV is more commonly contracted in the late teens and early twenties, and therefore symptoms of AIDS wouldn't appear until their mid-twenties. As a result, students are not conscious of infection among their peers and do not feel they are at risk.

HIV transmission occurs through both heterosexual and homosexual intercourse without condoms, and by sharing contaminated needles in intravenous drug use. An infected woman can also transmit the virus to her child before birth, during delivery or lactation.

"It takes a lot to bring it home," said Chateauvert. "It wasn't until Magic Johnson was diagnosed with HIV that we saw a significant increase in the number of guys coming to be tested - many because they related to him. He was a jock and he was straight."

Judging by the frequency of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies, Chateauvert believes that unsafe sex is still commonly practiced.

Changes in behaviour, however, are ultimately dependent on changes in societal standards.

"It comes down to what we accept as a society. It is common courtesy to open the door for someone - this is a societal norm. Using a condom is also a societal norm which would serve to protect ourselves and others," said Gilmore.

He added that politics, marketing and peer pressure all play a role in building up standards in a caring, understanding society.

"McGill students are part of the next generation. They may find themselves in leadership roles where an awareness of the issue of HIV and AIDS will allow them to contribute positively to societal standards."

Ben, an HIV-positive man, will be speaking at McGill on World AIDS Day.

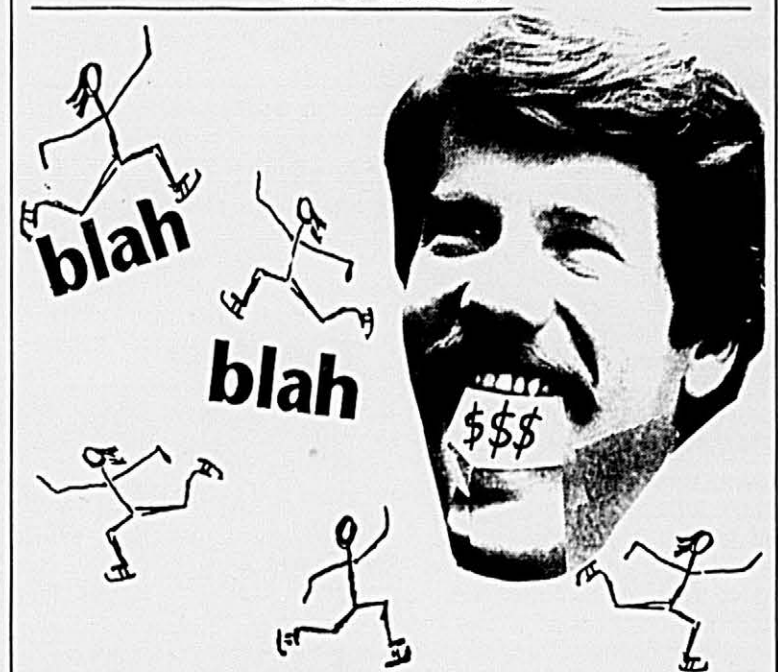
"World AIDS Day is significant for me because it is a time to think about the positive that we've inherited and what has been given to us by the people who have died from AIDS," he said.

Ben will speak about what it's like to live with HIV at 11:30 in Shatner 107-108, and at 14:30 in Leacock 14.

The film premiere of *Township to Tundra* by Barbara Doran will show at 12:30 in Shatner 107-108 and again at 15:30 in Leacock 14. The cross-cultural film charts the South African group Puppet's Against Aids in their Canadian tour including stops in an Innu village, a coastal town of Newfoundland and Salluit in northern Quebec.

The World AIDS Day Info Centre will be open from 10:00 until 14:00 in Shatner 107-108, and the McGill AIDS Centre will be holding a forum, "AIDS Awareness and Responsibility: Bigotry and Education in Canadian Society" at 17:30 in Leacock 132, in which Dr. Gilmore will be participating.

CITY BRIEFS



Budget blahs hound Doré administration

Montréal could lose 29 skating rinks

BY DAMION STODOLA

Montréal will lose 29 skating rinks this winter following a secret decision made by the City administration without public consultation.

Marvin Rotrand, Democratic Coalition councillor for Snowdon, made the discovery, which was revealed at a meeting of city council last Monday.

Rotrand had received several complaints from residents who were wondering why rinks boards had not been set up and discovered a memo dated November 11 which called for rink cutbacks.

Angry residents asked Mayor Jean Doré why the rinks were being closed. They complained that closing the rinks would compromise children's safety, forcing them to play in the streets.

Giovanni de Michele, an east-councillor who recently quit Doré's party, complained that one rink on the list served 25 000 residents last year.

Doré, with mustachioed flair, would neither confirm or deny the memo. "There is no motion before council dealing with rink closings," he said.

The rink closings come at the same time the city is investing

\$216 million to bail out its debt-ridden paramunicipal agencies.

Rotrand chastised the city for cutting back city services to finance bad decisions made by paramunicipals. Doré said Montréal still has more rinks per capita than any other municipality.

Léa Coutsineau, chair of the executive committee, announced the city will be pumping more money into the paramunicipals in the form of long-term loans.

\$216 million is being "invested" into property the city owns indirectly through various paramunicipal agencies. This is about \$50-60 million more than the city had originally agreed to spend last spring.

The city said rather than finance the paramunicipals each year, they would get a long-term loan to relieve future budgets. Sam Boskey, councillor for NDG., however, said the future city budgets will be burdened by the growing interest payments which grow substantially over 20 years.

The City budget is due to be released this Thursday, at which time skating rinks will be "officially" closed.

Hydro Québec's dam policies

Continued from page 6

are all prepared to make sacrifices."

Otter aptly puts it, "You call this province la belle Province, but just how long will it be like that? We're destroying the environment. It's really a pity. It's not just the territory of the Cree and the Innu. Each person in Québec has to pay the bill for that."

How to become more involved:

1. Call the Great Whale Public Review Support Office at 496-1469 and ask to be put on their mailing list and become involved with the review process. You can also go there in person at 1155 Sherbrooke W. (Corner Peel) room #1603. They have a lot of source material to look through.

2. Keep your ears open for news of a final decision to go ahead with SM-3; if it should happen, show



your support for the Innu people in their fight to save their land. (i.e., participate in demonstrations).

3. Write letters to federal and/or provincial ministries of the environment (Ministers Copps and Paradis respectively), or to U.S. state governments that have contracts with Hydro, or to Hydro-Québec

itself, stating how you feel about these megaconstructions/destructions.

4. Finally sign up on the bulletin board outside the ECO office, room 410, Shatner Building to become involved with the McGill environmental and Native awareness issues group.

Screwed

Getting **screwed** over on your student loan? Flat broke and receiving no help from the government in your efforts to become highly educated?

The *Daily* is doing a story on the loans and bursary system in Québec and we are looking for individuals who have had good or bad experiences with getting funds for universities.

Contact David Kennedy at the Daily, 398-6784